recommendations made by a committee set up under the chairmanship ot Dr. Y.K. Alagh, has been notified by the Government on 8.3.2007 to be implemented *w.e.f.* 1.10.2006. The Stage-III policy aims to promote usage of most efficient and comparatively cheaper feed stock natural gas/LNG for production of urea in the country. The policy lays down a formulation to dis-incentivise high cost production from the non-gas based units and to facilitate their early conversion to gas. The policy also encourages setting up of Joint Venture projects abroad where gas is available at reasonable price. Under NPS-III, the movement of urea will be monitored throughout the country by an online web based monitoring system. The subsidy on urea will be paid only when the urea reaches the district. The freight reimbursement to urea units will now be on actual rail and road leads. The reimbursement of railway freight will be as per the actual expenditure whereas the road component will be escalated by a composite road transport index. Further, the Department will operate a buffer stock through the State institutional Agencies/ fertilizer companies in major consuming states up to a limit of 5% of the seasonal requirement.

NPS-III is under implementation. Some of the units have represented against some provisions of the NPS-III, which are being dealt with in accordance with the laid down rules and procedures.

Import price of urea

2033. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE:
SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the import price of urea since 1999-2000, till date;

(b) the quantity of urea imported during the said period, total money spent on this account and the subsidy outgo for the import;

(c) the projected consumption of urea in the country during the next plan period; and

(d) the step taken by Government to bridge the gap between demand and indigenous availability of urea?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) The weighted average C&F price of urea imported on Government account since 1999-2000 is as below:–

Year	Wt. Average C&F price (US $ per MT)	
	For import from other sources	For imports from OMIFCO under UOTA
1	2	3
1999-2000	86.00	Nil
2000-2001	Nil	Nil

1	2	3
2001-2002	106.50	Nil
2002-2003	Nil	Nil
2003-2004	Nil	Nil
2004-2005	237.88	Nil
2005-2006	258.56	155.23
2006-07	248.85	168.66
2007-08 (upto July 07)	336.53	212.28

(b) The urea imports on government account, gross expenditure and the net subsidy paid on imported urea since 1999-2000 is as under:–

Year	Urea Imports (in lakh MT)	Gross Expenditure (Rs./ crore)	Net Subsidy (Rs./crore)
1999-2000	5.33	293.00	74.07
2000-2001	0.00	11.85	0.98
2001-2002	2.20	147.50	47.34
2002-2003	0.00	1.16	0.00
2003-2004	0.00	0.82	0.00
2004-2005	6.41	742.64	493.91
2005-2006	20.57	2164.71	1201.43
2006-07	47.19	5071.06	3274.09
2007-08 (up to July 07)	20.72	2838.19	2206.15

(c) and (d) The actual sales of urea during 2006-07 was approximately 245 lakh MT. The estimated demand during the current year 2007-08 is 276 lakh MT. The requirement of urea during 2011-12 which is the terminal year of the Eleventh plan, as estimated by the Working Group on Fertilizers is 287.50 lakh MT.

All efforts are being made to encourage. increased production indigenously to meet the projected requirement of urea.

Revival of sick/closed units

2034. SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN:
SHRI MOHAMMED AMIN:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether techno economic feasibility reports are being prepared for revival of sick/closed public sector units;